

## Message Text

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44

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-05 ADP-00 EUR-25 EA-11 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 /074 W

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R 301015Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9836

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 1924

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJ: GSL PLANS RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN CULTURAL CENTERS

JOINT USIS/EMBASSY MESSAGE

REF: COLOMBO 1'08

1. MDFA DIRECTOR WEST AFFAIRS BALASUBRAMANIAM DISCUSSED NEW DIRECTIVE REGULATING OPERATION FOREIGN CULTURAL CENTERS WITH PAO JULY 27. THE DRAFT REQUIRES GSL APPROVAL FOR OPENING CENTERS AND STATES THEY WILL GENERALLY BE LIMITED TO COLOMBO; APPLICATION SHOULD DESCRIBE PLANNED ACTIVITIES, NAMES OF OFFICERS, ETC.; CENTERS SHOULD REGULARLY SUBMIT DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES FOR MDFA APPROVAL IN ADVANCE; PUBLICATIONS AND PLANS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED FOR CLEARANCE; AND THIRD COUNTRY RULE SPELLED OUT.

2. BALASUBRAMANIAM AGAIN REFRAINED FROM NAMING COUNTRIES WHICH WANT TO OPEN CENTERS BUT IT WAS CLEAR FROM VARIOUS REFERENCES THAT THEY ARE USSR, PRC AND POSSIBLY OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. HE SAID GSL FELT COMPELLED TO ACCEDE TO REQUESTS BUT VERY CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE RESULTS. HE DESCRIBED THIS EFFORT AS "BUILDING A DIKE" AGAINST AN ANTICIPATED FLOOD.

3. HE REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT REGULATIONS NOT  
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DIRECTED AGAINST EXISTING CENTERS, THEY THEY NEED NOT MAKE

APPLICATION AND THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM ABOUT CONTINUING EXISTING CENTERS IN KANY. HE SOLICITED SUBSTANTIVE AND LANGUAGE SUGGESTIONS AND ACCEPTED SEVERAL MADE BY PAO. HE EVEN AGREED THAT REGULATION WOULD PROBABLY NOT SERVE INTENDED PURPOSE BUT INDICATED HE WAS DIRECTE TO DRAFT IT AND HAD TO DO HIS BEST.

4. ON BEING INFORMED OF DUAL INFORMATION AND CULTURAL FUNCTION OF USIS AS OPPOSED SEPARATION OF BRITISH COUNCIL AND BIS, FOR EXAMPLE, HE RECOMMENDED USIS ADOPT POSITION THAT ITS LIBRARY (WHICH IS LOCATED IN DIFFERENT BUILDING AND CALLED THE AMERICAN CENTER) IS THE CULTURAL CENTER AND REST OF USIS OPERATION NOT SUBJECT TO REGULATION.

5. FOR TIME BEING, POST DOES NOT EXPECT REGULATION TO HAVE SERIOUS EFFECT ON ACTIVITIES EXCEPT THAT PLANS FOR NEW BUILDING WILL HAVE TO BE RECONSIDERED AS MAINTENANCE SEPARATE "CENTER" MAKES PARA 4 POSITION FAR MORE CREDIBLE. HOWEVER, THERE IS OBVIOUS POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE PROBLEMS.  
RUSSELL

NOTE BY OC/ : REF AS RECEIVED. SERVICE ON REQUEST.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** worrelsw  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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